

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 25-27.

Please amend claim 21 as follows.

- a4
21. (Amended) [The] An isolated DNA molecule [of claim 17], comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:13, or the complement thereof;
  - (b) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to said nucleotide sequence of (a) under a wash stringency equivalent to 0.5X SSC to 2X SSC, 0.1% SDS, at 55-65°C, and which encodes a polypeptide having enzymatic activity similar to that of *Arabidopsis thaliana* branched chain 2-oxoacid dehydrogenase complex E1 $\beta$  subunit;
  - (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding the same genetic information as said nucleotide sequence of (a), but which is degenerate in accordance with the degeneracy of the genetic code; and
  - (d) a nucleotide sequence encoding the same genetic information as said nucleotide sequence of (b), but which is degenerate in accordance with the degeneracy of the genetic code;
- wherein the naturally occurring branched chain oxoacid dehydrogenase complex E2 component binding region thereof is replaced with the E2 component binding region of a plastid pyruvate dehydrogenase complex E1 $\beta$  subunit.

Please add the following new claim.

- a5
44. An isolated polypeptide encoded by the DNA molecule of claim 21.